

PH.D. IN ECOLOGY

Graduate Degree Program in Ecology

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[ecology.colostate.edu \(https://ecology.colostate.edu/\)](https://ecology.colostate.edu)

The Graduate Degree Program in Ecology (GDPE) offers outstanding opportunities for graduate studies ecology. The overall objective of the PhD in Ecology program is to develop students as scientists and policy makers with interdisciplinary problem-solving skills to address global challenges in the ecological sciences from local to global scales. Students in the PhD program engage in independent and collaborative research guided by advisors in the program.

Students interested in graduate work should refer to the Graduate and Professional Bulletin (<https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/graduate-bulletin/>) or visit the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology (<https://ecology.colostate.edu/>) website for more information.

Learning Objectives

Students who earn a Ph.D. must demonstrate significant intellectual achievement, scholarly ability, and breadth of knowledge. Successful students in this Ph.D. program demonstrate the following:

1. Mastery of concepts and principles of ecology and working knowledge of relevant basic biology and quantitative methods, achieved through required and elective coursework;
2. Ability to critically review and interpret scientific information and originality in integrating that information to design ecological research. This is assessed through the research proposal and written and oral components of the Ph.D. preliminary examination;
3. Understanding and practice of research ethics, collaborative approaches, and broader issues related to social responsibility through coursework and research projects;
4. Proficiency in (1) written communication shown in the research proposal, dissertation and, ideally, peer-reviewed research articles and (2) oral communication shown in presentations at professional conferences or in the classroom, and the dissertation seminar.